

Message Text

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22

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS STATE 118350

PANAMA FOR GAO DEMARCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:AGAO, EAIR

SUBJECT: GAO SURVEY: USG ASSISTANCE TO U.S. INTERNATIONAL
AIRLINES

REF: MEXICO 5744 (NOTAL)

1. GAO AUDITORS WILLIAM BERNSDORF AND MICHAEL WELSH WILL
DEFER VISIT TO JUNE 7, ARRIVING THIS DAY FOR A STAY OF
ABOUT TWO WEEKS. THEY APPRECIATE EMBASSY MAKING RESERVA-
TIONS TWO SINGLES HOTEL GENEVE. PLEASE CONFIRM.

2. SCOPE OF GAO AUDIT NOT REPEAT NOT AS STATED IN STATE
107009, WHICH IS REGRETTEED. GAO INTENDS EVALUATE USG
ASSISTANCE TO U.S. INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES, PARTICULARLY
THAT CALLED FOR IN RECENTLY ENACTED INTERNATIONAL AIR
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TRANSPORTATION FAIR COMPETITIVE PRACTICES ACT (P.L. 93-

623). UNDER THE ACT, STATE ALONG WITH OTHER USG AGENCIES IS CHARGED WITH REVIEWING ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS AGAINST U.S. AIRLINES, ATTEMPTING TO ALLEVIATE THEM, AND IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES IMPOSING COMPENSATORY CHARGES AGAINST THE AIRLINES OF THOSE COUNTRIES THAT PERSIST IN DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES. IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION WITH GAO IN DEPARTMENT, WE HAVE INFORMED AUDITORS THAT WHILE WE ARE KEEPING EYE ON SITUATION, WE HAVE NO OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS WITH MEXICO RE SCOPE OF P.L. 93-623.

3. GAO OVERALL SURVEY OBJECTIVE IS BOTH TO LEARN THE STATUS OF CURRENT AVIATION RELATIONS AND TO GAIN INSIGHT INTO HOW AIR NEGOTIATIONS ARE CARRIED OUT. DURING COURSE OF VISIT GAO AUDITORS PLAN MEET ONLY WITH COGNIZANT EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND U.S. AIRLINE REPRESENTATIVES. ROBINSON

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